

Appl. No. 09/821,848
Attorney Docket No.: 2001A001
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for the fabrication of a plurality of material systems, comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing at least a first material system component and a second material system component;
 - b) mixing said first material system component and said second material system component to form an intermixed material system composition;
 - c) depositing said intermixed material system composition onto a substrate; and
 - d) analyzing at least one material property of said intermixed material system composition, wherein a material property of at least one of said first material system component and said second material system component is varied on a real-time basis during said providing step such that said material system composition comprises a first material system composition at a first time and a second material system composition at a second time.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the step of reacting said material system composition after said depositing step.
5. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising the step of reacting said material system composition by heating after said depositing step.
6. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing said material system composition using a direct-write tool.
7. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing a linear feature.
8. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said material system composition is a thick-film paste.

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9. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein said material system is a polymer thick-film paste.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A method for the fabrication of a plurality of material systems, comprising the steps of:

a) continuously providing an intermixed material system composition comprising at least a first material system component and a second material system component;

b) depositing said intermixed material system composition; and

c) analyzing at least one material property of said material system composition, wherein the relative concentration of at least one of said first material system component and said second material system component is varied on a real-time basis during said providing step such that said material system composition comprises a first material system composition at a first time and a second material system composition at a second time.

14. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 13, further comprising the step of mixing said material system composition prior to said deposition step.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 13, further comprising the step of reacting said material system composition after said depositing step.

18. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 13, further comprising the step of reacting said material system composition by heating after said depositing step.

19. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing said material system composition using a direct-write tool.

20. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing a linear feature.

21. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said material system composition is a thick-film paste.

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22. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 13, wherein said material system composition is a polymer thick-film paste.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) A method for the deposition and analysis of a multi-layer structure, comprising the steps of:

a) depositing a first material on a substrate in the form of a linear feature;
b) depositing a second material over said first material to form a linear multi-layer structure; and

c) analyzing said linear multi-layer structure for at least one material property, wherein the composition of at least one of said first material and said second material is varied on a real-time basis during the deposition of said first or second material, such that said linear multi-layer structure comprises a first multi-layer composition at a first portion and a second multi-layer composition at a second portion of said linear multi-layer structure.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 26, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing said first and second materials with a direct-write tool.

29. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 26, wherein at least one of said first and second materials is a particulate reacted precursor.

30. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 26, wherein at least one of said first and second materials comprises a polymer.

31. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 26, wherein at least one of said first and second materials comprises a hydrophobic polymer.

32. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 26, wherein at least one of said first and second materials comprises an electrocatalyst.

33. (Previously Presented) A method for the deposition and analysis of a multi-layer structure, comprising the steps of:

a) continuously depositing a first material on a substrate in the form of a linear feature;

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- b) continuously depositing a second material over said first material to form a linear multi-layer structure; and
- c) analyzing said linear multi-layer structure for at least one material property, wherein the ratio of said first material to said second material is varied on a real-time basis such that said linear multi-layer structure comprises a first multi-layer composition at a first portion and a second multi-layer composition at a second portion of said linear structure.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 33, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing said first and second materials with a direct-write tool.

36. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 33, wherein at least one of said first and second materials is a particulate reacted precursor.

37. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 33, wherein at least one of said first and second materials comprises a polymer.

38. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 33, wherein at least one of said first and second materials comprises a hydrophobic polymer.

39. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 33, wherein at least one of said first and second materials comprises an electrocatalyst.

40. (Previously Presented) A method for the fabrication of a plurality of material systems, comprising the steps of:

- a) continuously providing at least a first material system component and a second material system component, wherein at least one of said first and second material system components comprises a particulate reacted precursor;
- b) mixing said first material system component and said second material system component to form an intermixed material system;
- c) depositing said intermixed material system composition onto a substrate; and
- d) analyzing at least one material property of said intermixed material system composition, wherein a material property of at least one of said first material system component and said second material system component is varied on a real-time basis such that

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said intermixed material system composition comprises a first material system composition at a first time and a second material system composition at a second time.

41. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 40, wherein the composition of said particulate reacted precursor is varied on a real time basis.

42. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 40, further comprising the step of reacting said material system composition after said depositing step.

43. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 40, further comprising the step of reacting said material composition by heating after said depositing step.

44. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 40, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing said material system composition using a direct-write tool.

45. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 40, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing a linear feature.

46. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 40, wherein said material system composition is a thick-film paste.

47. (Previously Presented) A method for the fabrication of a plurality of material systems, comprising the steps of:

a) continuously providing a material system composition comprising at least a first material system component and a second material system component, wherein said material system is an ultra-low fire conductor composition and at least one of said first and second material system components comprises a metal-organic decomposition compound;

b) depositing said material system composition onto a substrate; and

c) analyzing at least one material property of said material system composition, wherein a material property of at least one of said first material system component and said second material system component is varied on a real-time basis during said providing step such that said material system composition comprises a first material system composition at a first time and a second material system composition at a second time.

48. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 47, further comprising the step of reacting said material system composition after said depositing step.

49. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 47, further comprising the step of reacting said material system composition by heating after said depositing step.

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50. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 47, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing using a direct-write tool.

51. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 47, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing a linear feature.

52. (Previously Presented) A method for the fabrication of a plurality of material systems, comprising the steps of:

a) continuously providing a material system composition comprising at least a first material system component comprising an electrocatalyst and a second material system component comprising a polymer to form an intermixed material system;

b) depositing said intermixed material system composition onto a substrate; and

c) analyzing at least one material property of said material system composition, wherein a material property of at least one of said first material system component and said second material system component is varied on a real-time basis during said providing step such that said intermixed material system composition comprises a first material system composition at a first time and a second material system composition at a second time.

53. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 52, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing said material system composition using a direct-write tool.

54. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 52, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing a linear feature.

55. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 52, wherein said electrocatalyst is a supported electrocatalyst comprising an active species dispersed on a support.

56. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 52, wherein said polymer is a proton conductive polymer.

57. (Previously Presented) A method for the fabrication of a plurality of material systems, comprising the steps of:

a) continuously providing a material system composition comprising at least a first material system component comprising carbon and a second material system component comprising a polymer to form an intermixed material system;

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- b) depositing said intermixed material system composition onto a substrate; and
- c) analyzing at least one material property of said material system composition, wherein a material property of at least one of said first material system component and said second material system component is varied on a real-time basis during said providing step such that said material system composition comprises a first material system composition at a first time and a second material system composition at a second time.

58. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 57, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing said material system composition using a direct-write tool.

59. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 57, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing a linear feature, wherein said linear feature comprises said first material portion and second material portion.

60. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 57, wherein said carbon is particulate carbon.

61. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 57, wherein said polymer is a proton conductive polymer.

62. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 57, wherein said polymer is a hydrophobic polymer.

63. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 57, wherein said polymer is a hydrophilic polymer.

64. (Previously Presented) A method for the fabrication of a plurality of material systems, comprising the steps of:

- a) continuously providing a material system composition comprising at least a first material system component and a second material system component, wherein at least one of said first and second material system components comprises a particulate reacted precursor to form an intermixed material system composition;
- b) depositing said intermixed material system composition; and
- c) analyzing at least one material property of said intermixed material system composition, wherein the relative concentration of at least one of said first material system component and said second material system component is varied on a real-time basis

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during said providing step such that said intermixed material system composition comprises a first material system composition at a first time and a second material system composition at a second time during said depositing step.

65. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 64, further comprising the step of reacting said material system composition after said depositing step.

66. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 64, further comprising the step of reacting said material composition by heating after said depositing step.

67. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 64, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing said material system composition using a direct-write tool.

68. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 64, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing a linear feature.

69. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 64, wherein said material system composition is a thick-film paste.

70. (Previously Presented) A method for the fabrication of a plurality of material systems, comprising the steps of:

a) continuously providing an intermixed material system composition comprising at least a first material system component and a second material system component, wherein said material system is an ultra-low fire conductor composition and at least one of said first and second material system components comprises a metal-organic decomposition compound;

b) depositing said material system composition; and

c) analyzing at least one material property of said material system composition, wherein the relative concentration of at least one of said first material system component and said second material system component is varied on a real-time basis during said providing step, such that said material system composition comprises a first material system composition at a first time and a second material system composition at a second time during said depositing step.

71. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 70, further comprising the step of reacting said material system composition after said depositing step.

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72. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 70, further comprising the step of reacting said material system composition by heating after said depositing step.

73. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 70, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing using a direct-write tool.

74. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 70, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing a linear feature.

75. (Previously Presented) A method for the fabrication of a plurality of material systems, comprising the steps of:

a) continuously providing a material system composition comprising at least a first material system component comprising an electrocatalyst and a second material system component comprising a polymer;

b) depositing said material system composition; and

c) analyzing at least one material property of said material system composition, wherein the relative concentration of at least one of said first material system component and said second material system component is varied on a real-time basis during said providing step such that said material system composition comprises a first material system composition at a first time and a second material system composition at a second time.

76. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 75, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing said material system composition using a direct-write tool.

77. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 75, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing a linear feature.

78. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 75, wherein said electrocatalyst is a supported electrocatalyst comprising an active species dispersed on a support.

79. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 75, wherein said polymer is a proton conductive polymer.

80. (Previously Presented) A method for the fabrication of a plurality of material systems, comprising the steps of:

a) continuously providing a material system composition comprising at least a first material system component comprising carbon particles and a second material system component comprising a polymer;

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b) depositing said material system composition; and
c) analyzing at least one material property of said material system composition, wherein the relative concentration of at least one of said first material system component and said second material system component is varied on a real-time basis during said providing step such that said material system composition comprises a first material system composition at a first time and a second material system composition at a second time.

81. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 57, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing said material system composition using a direct-write tool.

82. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 57, wherein said depositing step comprises depositing a linear feature.

83. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 57, wherein said polymer is a proton conductive polymer.

84. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 57, wherein said polymer is a hydrophobic polymer.

85. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in Claim 57, wherein said polymer is a hydrophilic polymer.